

Sir:

A filing receipt for the above-identified patent application has been issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (copy attached) and has been found to contain the following error(s):

- (1) The mailing address reads "LYON AND LYON LLP, Suite 4700, 633 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles CA 90071-2066," but should read --BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS, LLP, 200 Middlefield Road, Suite 200, Menlo Park, CA 94025—
- (2) The Filing Date reads "01/01/2000," but should read -01/10/2000
- (3) The Attorney Docket No. reads "249/075", but should read --GUID-006CON6-- and
- (4) The Continuing Data as Claimed by Applicant reads "THIS APPLICATION IS A CON OF 09/385,812 08/30/1999, WHICH IS A CON OF 08/787,748 01/27/1997 ABN," but should read --THIS APPLICATION IS A CON OF 09/385,812 08/30/1999, Which is a CON of 08/903,516 filed 07/30/1997 PAT 5,944,736, WHICH IS A CON OF 08/787,748 01/27/1997 ABN

A copy of the Express Mail Label and Postcard is attached to indicate the correct date of Filing for this application. The first page of the specification is also enclosed to indicate the correct continuing data as claimed by the applicant.

Atty Dkt. No.: GUID-006CON6

USSN: 09/480,828

Some of the above corrections are due to applicant's error and the fee therefor, under 37 C.F.R. 1.19(h), of \$25.00 is paid as follows:

___ Enclosed is a check.

X Charge Account No. 50-0815.

Please return the enclosed postcard stamped with the Patent and Trademark Office date stamp to evidence receipt of this request.

Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date:

By:

Alan W. Cannon

Registration No. 34,977

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Telephone: (650) 327-3400 Facsimile: (650) 327-3231

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FEE TRANSMIPTAIS Note: Effective October 1, 998. Patent fees are subject to annual revision 1000 TRADEN 1. __ A CHECK IS ENCLOSED

THICE AN	Attorney Docket Number	VID-006CON6					
	First Named Inventor	Charles S. Taylor et al.					
	Application Number	09/480,828					
	Filing Date	January 10, 2000					
	Group Art Unit	3731					
	Examiner Name	Access Platform for Internal Mammary					
ME	THOD OF PAYMENT						

2. \overline{X} The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees including fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 and credit any Deposit Account No. 50-0815. overpayments to:

Deposit Account Name: Bozicevic, Field & Francis LLP

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

Address: ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND MARKS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET.NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
09/480,828	01/01/2000	3731	976	249/075	62	18	5
22249 LYON & LYON LLP SUITE 4700 633 WEST FIFTH STR LOS ANGELES, CA 90			EVIC, FIE MIDDLEFE LO BARK	LD of FRANCIELD ROAD,	GWO-000 CUS LLP SUSTEZ		

Date Mailed: 05/26/2000

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the PTO processes the reply to the Notice, the PTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

CHARLES S. TAYLOR, San Francisco, CA: William N. Aldrich, Redwood City, CA; Federico J. Benetti, MD, Sante Fe, ARGENTINA; Richard S. Ginn, San Jose, CA; Dwight P. Morejohn, Davis, CA; Brent Regan, Davis, CA: Eugene E. Reis, San Jose, CA; Ivan Sepetka, Los Altos, CA; William F. Witt, Palo Alto, CA:

Continuing Data as Claimed by Applicant

THIS APPLICATION IS A CON OF 09/385,812 08/30/1999 WHICH IS A CON OF 08/787,748 01/27/1997 ABN 2006 WHICH IS A CIP OF 08/619,903 03/20/1996 PAT 5,976,171 WHICH IS A CIP OF 08/604,161 02/20/1996 PAT 5,730,757

Which is A con of 08/903,516

11 FILED 07/30/97
17 PATENT NO. RECEIVED

5,944,736 RECEIVED

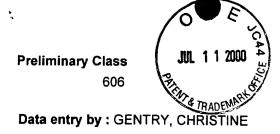
JUN 1 6 2000 U.S. PROSECUTION

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted 02/17/2000

Title

ACCESS PLATFORM FOR INTERNAL MAMMARY DISSECTION



Team : OIPE Date: 05/26/2000

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LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER Title 35, United States Code, Section 184 Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CRF 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

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PLEASE NOTE the following information about the Filing Receipt:

- The articles such as "a," "an" and "the" are not included as the first words in the title of an application. They are considered to be unnecessary to the understanding of the title.
- The words "new," "improved," "improvements in" or "relating to" are not included as first words in the title of an application because a patent application, by nature, is a new idea or improvement.
- The title may be truncated if it consists of more than 600 characters (letters and spaces combined).
- The docket number allows a maximum of 25 characters.
- If your application was submitted under 37 CFR 1.10, your filing date should be the "date in" found on the Express Mail label. If there is a discrepancy, you should submit a request for a corrected Filing Receipt along with a copy of the Express Mail label showing the "date in."

Any corrections that may need to be done to your Filing Receipt should be directed to:

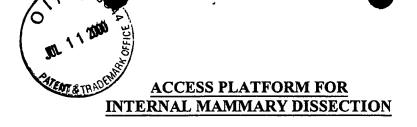
Assistant Commissioner for Patents Office of Initial Patent Examination Customer Service Center Washington, DC 20231

Please acknowledge receipt of the rollowing by affixing hereon the Patent and Trademark Office date stamp and returning this card to our office. Applicant: Charles S. Taylor, et al. Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned ACCESS PLATFORM FOR INTERNAL MAMMARY For: DISSECTION Filed: Herewith CONTINUATION: APPLICATION Attorney(s): Kenneth S. Roberts Docket No.: 249/075 Date of Deposit: January 10, 2000 Express Mail No.: EL508737254US Patent Application Transmittal; Specification, Preliminary Enclosure(s): Statement; 62 pages Formal Drawings, IDS Transmittal, form

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FROM: PLEASE PRINT) PHONE (949) 567-2300 LYGN 8 LYGN 1900 MAYA ST FL 6 18 VINE CA 92614-7200	SOX PATENT APPLICATION ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. QUESI
249/075 KSRoberts	,y .



This application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 09/385,812, filed August 30, 1999, which in turn is a continuation of Serial No. 08/903,516, filed on July 30, 1997, now issued as U. S. Patent No. 5,944,736, which in turn is a continuation of Serial No. 08/787,748, filed on January 27, 1997, now abandoned, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/619,903, filed on March 20, 1996, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,976,171, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 08/604,161, filed on February 20, 1996, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,730,757, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

DESCRIPTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to retractors, and more particularly to an access platform that facilitates access to the interior of the chest cavity during surgical procedures.

Background of the Invention

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Diseases of the cardiovascular system affect millions of people each year and are a leading cause of death in the United States and throughout the world. The cost to society from such diseases is enormous both in terms of lives lost and the cost of treating cardiac disease patients through surgery. A particularly prevalent form of cardiovascular disease is a reduction in the blood supply to the heart caused by atherosclerosis or other conditions that create a restriction in blood flow at a critical point in the cardiovascular system leading to the heart. In